

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/973,656

Examiner

Kenny Lin

Applicant(s)

WATSON, MARK

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/22/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 12, now renumbered as 1-11.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/20/2007.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other


BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-14 are presented for examination.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William Lee on 2/22/2007.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling the establishment of ~~[[ing]]~~a communications path between a first entity and a second entity in a communications network comprising at least two address domains, said address domains being connected by two or more network address translators, said method comprising the steps of:

- i) sending a call set-up message from the first entity to a first one of the network address translators via only a first one of the address domains, said call set-up message containing an address of the first entity within the first address domain;

- ii) receiving the call set-up message at the first network address translator and retaining the address of the first entity ~~within the first address domain~~ in the call set-up message as well as

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adding information ~~about~~ indicating the identity of the first address domain to the call set-up message;

iii) forwarding the call set-up message with said added information to the second entity via a second one of the address domains and a second one of the network address translators, such that the information in the call set-up message can be used to establish a communications path from the second entity to the first entity which excludes ~~one or more of said~~ a second one of the address domains when it is determined, using the added information, that the second entity is within the first address domain.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step (ii) of receiving further comprises creating a binding between a second address domain address for a port at the first network address translator and the first address domain address of the first entity; and once said binding is created adding the second address domain address of that port to the call set-up message.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises, after said step (ii) of receiving, forwarding the call set-up message to a third ~~network~~ address domain via a third network address translator.

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4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3 which further comprises at the third network address translator, adding information about an identity of the third address domain to the call set-up message.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first network address translator is arranged to access information from another network entity in order to carry out the method of step (ii) of claim 1 in respect of adding information about the identity of the first address domain to the call set-up message.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said communications path is arranged to provide a service that is hosted by one or more servers within the communications network but not within the first address domain.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first address domain is provided in a private region of the communications network and said second address domain is provided in a public region of the communications network.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said communications network is selected from an internet protocol communications network or an asynchronous transfer mode communications network.

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9. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A network address translator suitable for connection between a first and a second address domain in a communications network, said network address translator comprising:

an input arranged to receive a call set-up message from [[an]] a first entity in the first address domain, said call set-up message comprising an address of the first entity ~~within the first address domain;~~

a processor arranged to modify the received call set-up message by adding information ~~about~~ indicating the identity of the first address domain whilst retaining the address of the first entity ~~within the first address domain;~~ and also adding ~~information about~~ an address of the network address translator ~~itself~~ within the second address domain to the call set-up message; said address of the network address translator ~~itself~~ being bound to the address of the first entity ~~in the first address domain;~~

a output arranged to forward the modified call set-up message to a second entity via the second address domain, such that the information in the call set-up message can be used to establish a communications path within the first address domain from the second entity to the first entity when it is determined, using the added information, that the second entity is within the first address domain.

10. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A network address translator as claimed in claim 9 wherein said processor is provided externally to the network address translator and is connected to the network address translator by a communications network.

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11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of operating ~~[[an]]~~ a network address translator which is connected between a first and a second address domain in a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

i) receiving a call set-up message from ~~[[an]]~~ a first entity in the first address domain, said call set-up message comprising an address of the first entity ~~within the first address domain;~~

ii) modifying the received call set-up message by adding information ~~about~~ indicating the identity of the first address domain whilst retaining the address of the first entity ~~within the first address domain~~ in the call set-up message; and also adding ~~information about~~ an address of the network address translator ~~itself~~ within the second address domain to the call set-up message; said address of the network address translator ~~itself~~ being bound to the address of the first entity ~~in the first address domain;~~

iii) forwarding the modified call set-up message to a second entity via the second address domain, such that the information in the call set-up message can be used to establish a communications path within the first address domain from the second entity to the first entity when it is determined, using the added information, that the second entity is within the first address domain.

13-16. (Cancelled)


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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenny Lin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3968. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM Tue.-Fri. and every other Monday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ksl
February 22, 2007



BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER